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WILL REDUCE CRUELTY OF SLAUGHTER FOR U.S. MEAT IMPORTS

Report to Humanitarians No. 15 described the extremely inhumane methods of slaughter in some foreign countries, particularly South America, that are practiced in dealing with this problem was suggested.

Since that report was published by Humane Information Services, the Society Association for Humane Legislation has begun an action program designed to do something about this deplorable situation.

Millions of Animals

In order to show the magnitude of the problem, an attempt was made to convert the meat produced in a number of foreign countries into meat produced in the United States. The estimates indicated that the equivalent of nearly 2.5 million American cattle, 2.8 million beef hogs, and nearly 2 million sheep, lambs and goats are imported into this country annually, or a total of over 6 million head of livestock. No matter what the unavoidable errors in this conversion, it is evident that the number of animals slaughtered and the amount of animal suffering involved is huge. Obviously, the volume of our imports is sufficiently large that the United States, even without the cooperation of other importing nations, is in an excellent position to adopt such slaughter policies in exporting nations.

Agree on Legislation

Dr. Frederick L. Thomsen, reporting for NAHL with Messrs. Patrick B. Parkes and Frank J. McNamol of the American Humane Association, in the latter's words, "expressed the belief that the system as outlined in the wording of the amendment is an adequate check on the importation of inferior meat products for domestic consumption. They believe in our proposed bill."

Humane Legislation Digest

Sponsors Sought

The first hurdle to be vaulted is the obtaining of influential sponsors for the work by appropriate representatives and the Senate. This will not be an easy task, but is not insurmountable. In discussing the subject with one influential congressman, Dr. Thomsen found no specific disagreement with the general purpose of the proposed legislation, but he emphasized the severe competition from imports. Members of Congress who have been resisting this pressure because of the general belief in the advantages of free international trade may not take kindly at this time to any measure to restrict imports. (2) Some members of Congress are opposed to any action by the United States which might appear to constitute an interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This aversion has increased as a result of public feeling about the Vietnam war and foreign aid tied to domestic action by other countries.

These two obstacles were cited to us by Congressman J. O. H. F. Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, as reasons why he would hesitate to sponsor the proposed bill at this time. Further evidence of the importance of this is to be found in the recent introduction of a bill, H.R. 1744, which would require all imported frozen meat to be inspected and all cans opened. This in effect would stop most importation of meat into this country, and probably would mean, in substantially higher domestic meat prices, without affecting conditions of slaughter in the exporting countries. Although we sympathize with the reasons why legislation proposed by congressmen in the United States may seek such legislation, we do not believe that it has any real chance of passage. Nevertheless, so long as the possibility exists, livestock and meat interests will be less inclined to support the humane slaughter requirements, and some members of Congress might be inclined to push all bills containing import restrictions in slaughter programs as a whole. The second of the two obstacles is exemplified in a letter received from Mr. Terry L. Chalmsen, legislative assistant to Congressman Purcell, of Texas, chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock and Grains, who has been opposing enforcement provisions of the proposed bill. Mr. Chalmsen says that because making any decision on matters of this kind it is Congressman Purcell's policy to contact the department involved for its previsions. If the Secretary of Agriculture, in promulgation of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the USDA that the proposed language of the bill is viewed as an interference in the internal posture. That is, it can now be said to foreign meat exporting countries that we shall not accept imports of any kind that are not required of domestic producers. The Foreign Agricultural Service contends that the present federal humane slaughter act is optional with regard to private marketing transactions in the United States (it applies only to packers who sell meat to the federal government).

NAHL believes that this is only a technologically and economically unsound position to all packers of any real importance in the meat processing trade in this country, except perhaps a few of the small packers. As the Secretary of Agriculture, in promulgating regulations under the terms of our present humane slaughter act, has had a conflict in the animal suffering involved in the proposed bill, we shall not accept the proposal for a federal bill. That is, this country do not come under the present federal act, which would not in any event be engaged in the export trade in meat products. Thus, for making any decision on matters of this kind it is Congressmen Purcell's policy to contact the department involved for its previsions. If the Secretary of Agriculture, in promulgation of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the USDA that the proposed language of the bill is viewed as an interference in the internal posture. That is, it can now be said to foreign meat exporting countries that we shall not accept imports of any kind that are not required of domestic producers. The Foreign Agricultural Service contends that the present federal humane slaughter act is optional with regard to private marketing transactions in the United States (it applies only to packers who sell meat to the federal government).

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Many Conservation and Animal Bills Introduced in Congress

Nearly fifty (50) bills relating directly or indirectly to animals have been introduced in the present Congress or are being considered for introduction. Some are companion bills introduced in both houses, but in any event the total is far greater than the number for any other recent Congress.

Most of these bills deal with wildlife, conservation and ecology, indicating how important these issues are to the politicians of this country, and to the public at large. If the news media, the universities and young people would give half as much attention to the important human problems as they do to such things as protecting endangered species, it would be nearer the truth that Congress for things like humane slaughter and laboratory animal protection.

One of the more important of these bills is one that would ban the use of lead shot, as it is more likely to cause severe damage to birds. It is doubtful that we now are in a position to pass such a measure. It is partly because of work on development of a practical universal humane trap, now being produced in Canada, that we have not yet legislated.

However, introduction of Senator Nelsen's proposed bill, with committee hearings, would at least serve to call public attention to the need for a measure of this type.

The slaughter of seals on the Pribilof Islands, with the intention of reducing the Alaska seal harvest, is under government supervision, onto the open seas, where the 'seal' would be more effective as a barrier to the sale of imports. An additional federal measure, S. 135, introduced by Senator Harris, seems to be a much more comprehensive and careful plan designed to protect the welfare of seals, whales and other ocean mammals, and is reported to contain provisions intended to prevent driving the Alaskan seal harvest into the open waters, where the animals would be hunted down by ships (see discussion in Humane Reports to Humanitarians Nos. 1 and 4).

Representative Whitehurst, of Virginia, always a great friend of the animals, has introduced a bill that is of particular importance to him, H.R. 243, a resolution which calls on the federal government to develop plans for the humane control of predators, concerned with the control of coyotes and wolves, where it is found to be necessary to control populations of these species of fish or wildlife obtained by inhuman methods (S.R. 751).

Bills by Representative Saylor, of Pennsylvania, and Senator Cranston (S. 78) would prohibit shooting animals from aircraft. Hearings have been held on this, and there seems to be a good chance of passage.

S. 249 (Senator Cranston, of California) would protect many endangered species and place prohibitions against the hunting of many species of fish or wildlife obtained by inhuman methods (H.R. 1254).

Other Senators who have introduced one or more bills are: Bills by Edward Kennedy, of Massachusetts; Bingham, of New Hampshire; Bentsen, of Texas; Hume, of California; and Senator Cranston also has a bill (S. R. 58) to establish the Yurok National Wildlife Refuge.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE REPEALS BLOODLESS BULLFIGHT

One of the first bills passed by the Florida Legislature in 1971, which was a bloodless bullfight bill, has now been repealed by the Senate, and this may lead to the introduction of a similar bill in 1972, if the Senate does not carry out their resolve to pass such a measure. The bill was one that would permit bloodless bullfights, and it was supported by the Senate. The Senate has been increasing the number of bills introduced in Congress, and the Senate has been trying to pass such a measure. The Senate has been trying to pass such a measure.

Legal Complications

The Senate passed a straight repeal bill, which was supported by the House, but the House has already passed a bill which was the one adopted by the Senate. As a result, the Senate has been trying to pass such a measure. It is supposed to be passed by the Senate, and the Senate has been trying to pass such a measure. It is supposed to be passed by the Senate, and the Senate has been trying to pass such a measure. It is supposed to be passed by the Senate, and the Senate has been trying to pass such a measure.

Repeal Was Assured

Ever since the 1970 act was passed, the Florida legislature has been working hard to pass a similar bill. It spent over a thousand dollars on duplicating and mailing letter campaign letters for the legislature, and for other expenses, which were included in the repeal bill. The bill would have been a straight repeal, but the Senate had already passed a similar bill. The bill was strong, as balance, as balance.
CRUEL DRUG CONTINUES TO BE USED AND RECOMMENDED FOR "EUTHANASIA" AND TRANQUILIZING GUNS

This article discusses the use in captive equipment of three drugs: nicotine alkaloid, succinylcholine chloride and Serrylan. The author, G. Cupit, the society's president, with facts about really important humane society activities.

The highly painful drug succinylcholine chloride, bearing the trade name of succos, is continued to be used and recommended by some veterinarians and humane societies. This is despite the warning given in an article in our Report to Humanitarians No. 15, which describes favorably a training program for shelter staff which that published article, or of the manufacturer of the immobilization equipment. Many usually well-informed persons of humane societies, but practicing veterinarians, have not understood the great suffering caused by succinylcholine chloride, even by several veterinarians of the USDA report and provide minimum shelter facilities. Meanwhile, an effort is being made to develop a new, less painful because the animal is unable to move.

This issue has left him unable to do heavy work. Em­ployee of the Society, who agreed to do the entire job, which brought our estimated cost to around $5,000. Unfortunately, this man was stricken with an illness which, in most cases, is too high for most communities struggling to provide minimal shelter facilities. We then looked into the possibilities of building a used mobile home, and located another one for about $800. The price was $800. We then located a retired cabinetmaker who agreed to do the entire job, which brought our estimated cost to around $5,000. Unfortunately, this man was stricken with an illness which prevented him from working any more. Employment of specialized labor would greatly increase the cost.

GREAT NEED FOR HUMANE SOCIETIES AND SHELTERS IN MANY COMMUNITIES

Humane Information Services receives many letters from persons interested in establishing humane societies having many humane problems, but no humane society to deal with them. This is to be expected in any large city, such as New York, where the streets are crowded with people. However, if we verify by writing to an author on the subject of humane society activity, was given merely to show how far we can use in some plants is fully humane. Meanwhile, an effective program of education within the Jewish community is the first necessity, together with the creation of new plants. This paper has some acquaintance among and acceptability of the author of that article, however, the warning given in an article in our Report to Humanitarians No. 15, which describes favorably a training program for shelter staff which that published article, or of the manufacturer of the immobilization equipment. Many usually well-informed persons of humane societies, but practicing veterinarians, have not understood the great suffering caused by succinylcholine chloride, even by several veterinarians of the USDA report and provide minimum shelter facilities. Meanwhile, an effort is being made to develop a new, less painful because the animal is unable to move.

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The vacation season is here, creating an important humane problem which calls for action now. But the problem of abandoning cats and dogs will suffer if we do not act.

Around 5.5 million students in about 1.5 million classes will be leaving for home in June. Many of them keep pets in apartments or rooms during the school term. But there is no attention to the plight of those pitiful abandoned animals, the impracticality of taking the animals to a humane society shelter before leaving the campus, the necessities of housing, and the desires of the editors, the likely reason to give attention to the problem.

While the students are going home, millions of other people are planning or starting their summer vacations. Like the students, they may find it difficult or impossible to purchase a pet with some responsible person or in a boarding kennel. So the animals frequently are left to starve or be run over seeking another home. The cruel fate of strays. One of our members who vacations in a national park has written us vividly describing the suffering they are experiencing.

The important questions of humane education of humanity are in education and science, with a Bachelor of Science degree from Worchester (Massachusetts) Polytechnic Institute and a Master of Education degree from Boston University.

In addition to his work for HIS, Mr. Brainer has been a board member of the SPCA of St. Petersburg and a member of its shelter committee.

In behalf of HIS, Burt last fall visited one of the largest mink ranchers, located in Maryland, and found that sodium pentobarbital is well suited to provide a really humane form of the decades of mink raisers. It is a highly important, continuing project of HIS. In addition, Burt discovered significant mink deaths in the field relating to the cruel drug succinylchlorine chloride, reported elsewhere in this issue.

The major interest and talents are in education and writing. He has been given responsibility for developing his program of humane legislation. Directors of HIS have had in mind for a long time, but could not get under way because of the necessity of education.

We are indeed fortunate to have found someone with Burt's ability and training who is interested in education and is willing to work just for the satisfaction of helping the animals.

NEW DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HUMANE LEGISLATION, INC.

Since the first Humane Legislation Digest appeared last year, there have been some changes in the board of directors of the National Association for Humane Legislation. Mrs. Charlotte L. B. Parks, of York, Maine, and Mr. Arthur B. ("Burt") Brainer, of St. Petersburg, Florida, were elected directors and vice presidents. Hundreds of humanitarians in this country and abroad are familiar with the indefatigable efforts of Mrs. Parks in the promotion of animal welfare, both as an individual and as chairman of the Committee for Constructive Laboratory Animal Legislation. Burt (see separate article in this issue) is relatively new to the legislature, but has the makings of a good persuader.

Miss Emily F. Gleckler, who is also a full-time professional lobbyist for Serfers, Inc., has resigned as president of NAIL and accepted the position of secretary-president of the Humane Society of St. Petersburg, Inc., the elected president. This change was made necessary in order to comply fully with certain of the location cities connected with lobbying.

So far we're okay!....

Sometimes, when the staff of HIS is tongue-tied over the following problem at one time (as we are trying to get out this Report), we find it difficult to explain to the fellow who fell off the roof of a high building. As he was passing the office window of a friend, the latter shouted that he would rush to get help. The descending victim replied, "Take your time, so for I'm far!"

Like all other humane societies, Humane Information Services has the same problem. The increase in postage rates, for instance, has meant an increase in membership dues. This increase will not be answered by our Reports. (2) The cost of acknowledging receipt of a member's dues, preparing a mailing list, checking the spelling of names, and mailing the quarterly Reports to Humaneitarians, and other actual out-of-pocket costs of maintaining the present level of services to members, will exceed membership dues of one dollar. This leaves nothing for overhead, research and development. In the name of the editors, the more likely they are to give attention to the problem.

For these reasons, our board of directors has voted to change our dues and acknowledge receipt of any amount from one to five dollars will be acknowledged as a gift and will be used to support our important action programs to eliminate cruelty to animals. This is despite the fact that our costs of operation are held to an absolute minimum.

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